

and appropriate layers for a 1.5-mile easy to moderate hike. Meet at the Wheaton House. **Fee: \$5/person; members, free.**

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT. Saturday, May 13, 7 a.m. Early May is the peak of spring bird migration. Birders are asked to submit the species they identify during a hike at this time, creating a snapshot of birds across the continent. Avid birder **Evan Mann** will lead our hike. Good walking shoes and binoculars are recommended. We'll begin in the main parking lot and stop late morning. **No fee.**

PLAN AND PLANT YOUR GARDEN, PART I: NATIVE AND POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PLANTS. Saturday, May 27, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn some basics of earth-friendly landscaping in a presentation about native plants that benefit pollinators and support wildlife. Bring a picture or sketch of your home area, and we will go through the steps from dreaming to paper to reality. After lunch, get your hands dirty planting the park garden. Participants will receive a starter strawberry plant. Children are welcome. Join us for all or part of the activities. Bring a lunch and tools if you have them. **Fee: \$5/person; members and kids, free.**

STAR PARTY. Saturday, May 27, 8:30–10:30 p.m. Meet at the Wheaton House, where **Mike and Mary Sinkovich** will give us some tips about telescopes. At dusk, we'll move to a field where viewing is ideal. Bring a cheap flashlight to transform into a red light with nail polish. Dress for the weather. All levels of stargazers welcome. Total cloud-out and rain are unpredictable; call the park if the weather looks iffy. **Fee: \$5/person or \$15 for families; members, free. Rain date: Sunday, May 28, 8:30 p.m.**

BIKE THE BORDER. Sunday, May 28, 1:30 p.m. Ride the roads through Salt Springs Park and the Friends land and get a feel for how big the park is. Different loops will be considered based on riding levels. Some simple bike maintenance and safety tips will be covered first. **Fee: Free-will donation or non-perishable item(s) for the local food bank.**

June

PLAN AND PLANT YOUR GARDEN, PART II: ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING. Sunday,

June 4, 1–4 p.m. Learn how easy it is to garden. Our presentation will include such topics as raised beds, soil testing, and composting. Bring a picture or sketch of your garden, and we'll go through the steps to plan and pick plants for your garden. After lunch, get your hands dirty helping us plant the park garden. Participants will receive a starter strawberry plant. Children are welcome. Join us for all or part of the activities. Bring a lunch and tools if you have them. **Fee: \$5/person; members and kids, free.**

FULL MOON HIKE. Friday, June 9, 8:30 p.m. Join us for a hike. We'll end the evening around a campfire sharing snacks and stories. Meet at the Wheaton House. **Fee: Free-will donation or nonperishable item(s) for the local food bank.**

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION. Saturday, June 17, 1–4 pm. We'll have on-going demos and activities, including solar viewing and solar lessons. Bring a picnic and blanket to sit on. **Fee: Free-will donation.**

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION. Saturday, June 17, 8 pm. Join us for story-telling around a campfire. Bring snacks to share. **Fee: Free-will donation.**

AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE WORKSHOP AND SURVEY WALK. Saturday, June 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Tim Matthews**, a representative of the Pennsylvania Amphibian Reptile Survey and in partnership with the E.L. Rose Conservancy, will provide general information about PA amphibians and reptiles. This will be followed by a detailed "how to" on field surveying. After lunch we'll hit the trails to conduct a field survey. Bring lunch, water, notebook, and camera. Meet at the Wheaton House. **Fee: \$5/person; members and kids, free.**

TWO-WHEELED TOUR OF SALT SPRINGS PARK, Sundays, June 25, July 30, Aug 27, Sep 24, 1 pm. Bike the roads and trails to the edges of the park. We'll explore a different route on the last Sunday of each month throughout the summer, featuring easy to moderate riding. Meet at the Wheaton House. **No fee.**

FSSP public programs are funded in part by the Susquehanna County Conservation District.

Friends of Salt Springs Park

Programs & Events

February - June
2017



**Salt Springs Park
Franklin Forks, PA**

(From Montrose: 6 miles N on Rt. 29;
1 mile W on Silver Creek Rd to park)

For latest program information:
570-967-7275
www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org



Join us on Facebook!

NOTE: For all programs, children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

February

WINTER SNOW FUN. Dates, times, and details will be posted online when scheduled. Come out of hibernation to see some winter wonders. Bring snowshoes, cross-country skis, or winter boots. **Fee: Free-will donation.**

PART I: ALASKA, THE LURE OF THE LAND: DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE.

Sunday, February 26, 2 p.m. Sandy Babuka spent the summer of 2016 working as a tour bus driver and guide in Denali National Park. She will describe and illustrate with jaw-dropping visuals the mountains and camps, her moose and bear encounters, the Native American Athabaskans and their culture, the Teklanika and Toklat rivers, and so much more. **Fee: Free-will donation.**

March

OH! THE MANY FEET WE MEET! Saturday, March 4, 1–3 p.m. Most mammals that live in the woods lead largely secret lives. Learn about those common in the park. We'll follow their tracks and look for other signs of activity. Dress for the weather, and meet at the Wheaton House. **Fee: Free-will donation.**

PART II: THE ALASKA CHRONICLE CONTINUED: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AT DENALI. Sunday, March 5, 2 p.m. Sandy Babuka

spent the summer of 2016 working as a tour bus driver and guide in Denali National Park. Join us for her richly illustrated and entertaining yet educational presentation on a vast stretch of American wilderness, including the melting permafrost, rock and mudslides and other geological disturbances, and the wildlife, culture, and geography of Denali. **Fee: Free-will donation.**

WHOOO GIVES A HOOT? FULL MOON HIKE. Saturday, March 11, 7 p.m. Nancy Wottrich will give a short presentation on our native owls as we wait for the full moon to rise. Then we'll wander the woods "calling

in" some owls. Bring a flashlight, and dress for the weather. Meet at the Wheaton House. **Fee: \$5/person; members, free.**

AN eBIRD PRIMER. Saturday, March 18, 10–11:30 a.m. Bird watchers love to keep records of what they see. eBird is a free, online database birders can use to track their sightings. It is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, and scientists also access the data during research that advances our understanding of bird distribution. **Evan Mann**, the eBird Reviewer and Filter Editor for Susquehanna County, will teach us how to use the database. Questions he will address include How do I enter data? Look up my data? Sort and view my data? Attach photos and sound recordings? See what other birders are finding? Use eBird to find birds on trips to unfamiliar areas? Evan will demonstrate the answers to these questions live, online. **Fee: Free-will donation.**

TREE PRUNING CLASS. Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m. Yearning for spring and summer bounty? Pruning your landscape and fruit trees properly is imperative. **Jim Kessler** will discuss and demonstrate on several tree species the why, where, how, what, and when to cut. Bring your questions; the discussion is interactive. **Fee: \$10/person; members, \$5.**

April

BUILD YOUR OWN BIRD BOX. Saturday, April 1, 1–3 p.m. As the spring season approaches, your backyard birds are thinking about building a home and raising a family. **Evan Mann**, local birder and Friends' member, will teach us how to attract birds to our properties by offering them nest box homes. Learn which species will use these boxes, where best to place them in your landscape, and how to be a "good landlord" so their young successfully fledge. After a 45-minute A / V presentation (with lots of beautiful pictures), we will move to the Carriage Barn where you will assemble the nest box that you have pre-ordered with your class registration. **Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please pre-register by March 17 (570-967-7275 or friends@epix.net).** Meet at the Wheaton House. **Fee: \$15 per nest box. Plus \$5/person or members, free.**

"TAKE A BREAK" HIKE. Saturday, April 8, 1–3 p.m. Take a break from your taxes and head for the hills of Salt Springs Park. We'll tackle a 3-mile moderately difficult loop. Dress for the weather, and bring snacks and drinks. Meet at the Wheaton House. **Fee: Free-will donation or nonperishable item(s) for the local food bank.**

CHAINSAW DAY. Saturday, April 15, 9 a.m. Come tackle the trees with us on this first day of spring cleaning. We turn dead trees into firewood to sell. Bring chainsaws and trucks if you can. **Free food, drinks, and T-shirts provided to all volunteers. Please pre-register (friends@epix.net) so we have sufficient supplies on hand.**

FOOD FOR THE TROUT FISHERS. Saturday, April 15, 9 a.m. Fall Brook and Silver Creek are designated Approved Trout Streams and stocked several times each spring. The Friends will be on hand to welcome all to Salt Springs on this first day of trout season. **We sell hot food and beverages for modest prices.**

TRAIL DAY. Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. On this second day of park cleaning in April, we tackle everything else! We'll finish up with the firewood; clear trails, lawns, and flowerbeds; clean the buildings; attack invasive species; and more. **Free food, drinks, and T-shirts provided to all volunteers. Please pre-register (friends@epix.net) so we have sufficient supplies on hand.**

EGG HUNT. Sunday, April 23, 1–4 p.m. Celebrate spring's new life with a hike to collect amphibian eggs. Learn about amazing PA amphibians and setting up an egg hatching system. The hike is less than a mile, with a stream crossing. Bring an empty container. Meet at the Wheaton House. **Fee: \$5/person; members, free.**

May

GO WILD FOR WILDFLOWERS! Sunday, May 7 1–4 p.m. Let's take a walk and see how many flowers we can find. We will be photographing and collecting a few species to press. A wildflower guide, camera, and notebook are handy but not necessary. Bring snacks and drinks, sturdy shoes,